The Gun Language: Erasure, Resilience, and the Divine Power of Ogun and Oya

The **Gun** language is an ancient and sacred form of communication, closely tied to the spiritual traditions of the **Egungun** (the ancestors) and the **Orishas**. It is not just a language for communication; it is a divine frequency, deeply embedded in the spiritual fabric of the African continent, particularly among the **Nago** and **Egun** people, the ancestors of Ogun. This language was systematically erased and suppressed by colonial powers and other hidden forces, who sought to sever African people from their cultural and spiritual roots.

The Erasure of the Gun Language: A Battle for Spiritual Identity

For centuries, the **Gun** language has been systematically hidden and erased by powerful forces who feared its potential to reawaken the collective spiritual power of the African people. It was more than just a means of communication—it was the language of the divine, used to invoke the power of the ancestors (**Egun**) and the **Orishas**, particularly **Ogun** (the god of war and iron) and **Oya** (the goddess of transformation and winds). This language served as a spiritual tool to connect with higher realms, summon divine protection, and invoke the energy of the universe.

The **Gun** language, with its sacred power, has faced a concerted effort to be erased from the world's collective consciousness. For centuries, hidden forces sought to suppress this language, fearing the divine power it holds. These forces recognized the strength that this language carries and sought to break the spiritual and cultural connection it provided to the divine and the ancestral realms. But the **Gun** language has never truly been erased. Like an ancient root buried deep in the soil, it continues to grow and flourish in the hidden corners of West Africa, especially in **Benin**, **Togo**, and **Nigeria**, where it is spoken and used in rituals to call upon the divine.

Despite efforts to hide it, the **Gun** language continues to endure, offering a connection to the **Orishas**, the ancestors, and the spiritual world. Through its words, humanity can tap into the primal energies of life, transformation, and resilience. **Gun** is a language of spiritual protection, divine wisdom, and ancestral strength.

The **Gun** language has survived in hidden corners of Africa, particularly in **Benin**, **Togo**, and **Nigeria**, where sub-tribes continue to speak it, and its power is still used in rituals to honor the **Orishas**.

Ogun: The God of War, Iron, and Justice

Ogun is a central deity in many African spiritual systems, especially among the **Nago** and **Egun** people. He is the god of war, iron, and creativity. **Ogun** governs all who work with metal—blacksmiths, hunters, warriors, and anyone who crafts tools, weapons, or creates with iron. He is the guardian of those who forge the future through their labor and their will.

Ogun, the God of War and Iron, plays a pivotal role in the **Gun** language. **Ogun** is the protector of warriors, blacksmiths, hunters, and all those who work with iron and metal. He symbolizes strength, courage, and the power to overcome obstacles. In **Gun** culture, **Ogun** is the embodiment of resilience, guiding warriors into battle, forging tools of war and peace, and transforming the world through iron and metalwork.

The word **Ogun** itself holds multiple meanings in **Nago** and **Yoruba** culture, reflecting **Ogun's** diverse roles in the physical and spiritual realms. These meanings include:

- **Ogun = Medicine**: **Ogun** represents healing, both physical and spiritual, through the power of metal and the earth.
- **Ogun = Charm**: **Ogun** can be invoked for protection and strength, often through powerful charms.
- **Ogun = War**: As the god of war, **Ogun** represents protection, strategy, and courage in battle.
- **Ogun = State**: **Ogun's** power extends to governance and leadership, especially in matters of law and order.
- **Ogun = God of Iron**: **Ogun** is the divine patron of ironworkers, blacksmiths, and all who create with metal.
- **Ogun = Stab**: The sharp force of **Ogun** is reflected in the act of stabbing, symbolizing direct action and combat.
- **Ogun = Twenty**: In some traditions, **Ogun** is associated with the number twenty, symbolizing power, strength, and the completion of cycles.
- **Ogun = Sweat**: **Ogun** represents the labor and toil of those who work with metal, embodying the sweat and effort of creation.
- **Ogun = Property**: **Ogun** is also connected to material wealth, property, and the products of human labor.
- **Ogun = Climb**: The energy of **Ogun** encourages the overcoming of obstacles and the rise above challenges.
- **Ogun = Long**: **Ogun's** power is enduring and everlasting, representing resilience through time.

Ogun is a deity of resilience and creativity, whose energy fuels the human spirit to create, protect, and transform. The **Gun** language, as a divine frequency, channels **Ogun's** power, enabling individuals to tap into this energy for protection, strength, and transformation.

Ogun's influence spans across various cultures and religions worldwide. In **Vodou**, **Santería**, **Candomblé**, and other African-derived religions, **Ogun** is invoked for protection, justice, and healing. His presence is seen in the tools of work—both material and spiritual—and his strength fuels the warriors and laborers who shape the world.

Oya: The Great Mother of the Nine and the Winds

Oya, the goddess of transformation, is a powerful and revered deity in **Gun** and African spiritual traditions known as **Oya'nla** (The Great Mother). She is often referred to as **OYA EGUN**, and is known as **Ná egun** or **Nayé Gonnu**. In the **Nago** and **Gun** culture, representing the **Mother of**

the Nine ancestral genes, symbolizing both the cycles of life and the connection between the living and the dead. **Ná Egun (Nagonū)**, the Mother of the Ancestors. **Oya** governs the winds, storms, and the forces of change, often represented in the devastating yet purifying power of the hurricane.

In **Benin**, **Oya** is also called **Abẹẹsan, Oya-Iyansan** "Iya abi **mẹsan**" (Mother of Nine), and she is closely associated with the **Nile River**, the **Odo Oya** River, and the power of transformation. **Oya** governs the winds, storms, and rain, and she is the goddess who guides souls through transformation—whether through physical change or spiritual renewal.

Oya's role as **Mother of Twins (Ibeji)** symbolizes the duality of existence—the connection between life and death, transformation, and rebirth. She is the **Mother of the Egungun** (the Mother of the Ancestors). Her energy is one of cleansing, renewal, and change.

In many cultures, **Oya** is linked with the powers of life and death. Her winds are powerful, and her storms bring both destruction and renewal. **Oya** is the goddess who ushers in change and new beginnings. Her winds bring cleansing, transformation, and renewal. In African cosmology, she is also the guardian of **Egungun** (ancestors), guiding the spirits of the deceased through the realms of life and death.

She is also known as **Oya Ibeji**, the **Mother of the Ibeji**, the divine twins, who symbolize duality, balance, and the sacred power of creation.

The Divine Power of the Gun Language

The **Gun** language is not just a means of communication; it is a spiritual tool—a language of divine frequencies that allows people to connect with the **Orishas**, the ancestors (**Egun**), and the cosmic forces of creation and transformation. It is the sacred gift of the divine, which transcends time and space, carrying the wisdom of the ages and channeling the energies of the gods.

The words in the **Gun** language carry deep meanings and divine power:

- **Ogbé** means "Voice" or "Language", symbolizing the collective existence of humanity.
- **Ogbè** means "World", representing the world and the unity of life.
- **Ogbè tò** refers to humanity, signifying the human journey—life, death, and rebirth.

Each word in **Gun** carries vibration and energy, channeling the power of the **Orishas** and ancestors, and allowing individuals to call upon these forces for protection, guidance, and transformation.

The energy of **Ogun**, **Oya**, and the divine forces flows through the words, allowing people to connect with their ancestral roots, gain wisdom, and channel the divine into their lives.

Gun Language Code: A Living Legacy

The **Gun** language has been officially recognized as a living language:

- **Identifier**: guw
- **Language**: Gun
- **Status**: Active
- **Code Sets**: 639-3
- **Scope**: Individual
- **Language Type**: Living

This recognition acknowledges the continued importance of the **Gun** language as a living, vital force that plays a key role in maintaining the cultural and spiritual heritage of the African diaspora.

Resilience of the Gun Language

Despite the attempts to erase it, the **Gun** language has endured, passed down through generations in small sub-tribes scattered across **Benin**, **Togo**, and **Nigeria**. It is the language of the divine, carrying the wisdom of the ancestors and the connection to the **Orishas**. The **Gun** language remains resilient—a powerful symbol of the enduring spirit of Africa, the strength of the human soul, and the unbreakable bond to the divine.

Gun Language and its Historical Legacy

The **Gun** people, also known as **Gungbé** or **Ogun Gbé**, trace their roots to the Great **Ardra Kingdom** in West Africa, an influential empire that existed long before the onset of the transatlantic slave trade. This kingdom, located along the Slave Coast, was known as **Hogbonou**—later renamed **Porto-Novo** by the Portuguese colonizers.

Historical maps, such as the 1747 map by the French cartographer **Jacques-Nicolas Bellin**, show the region as the Slave Coast and label it as the **Kingdom of Juda**. In addition, the **Negroland** map, which was used to describe the western region of Africa, refers to the area as **La Terre des Noirs** (Negroland). This map from the early 18th century shows the Kingdom of **Hogbonou** as a significant region within the broader context of African societies.

The **Gun** people were central to the trade networks of the region, dealing in valuable commodities like gold, ivory, and spices, while maintaining their cultural and spiritual traditions. **King Huffon**, the last ruler of the **Kingdom of Juda**, played a significant role in its political and economic affairs before the arrival of European colonial powers. The region's historical importance is reflected in French research by scholars such as **Marc Michel**, who document the rise and fall of the **Kingdom of Hogbonou**. According to **Marc Michel**, “the **Kingdom of Hogbonou** was one of the most important political entities in the region long before the arrival of European colonial powers, before the slave trade.”

The **Gun** language and its people faced a systematic erasure due to the transatlantic slave trade. However, their resilience remains, and the **Gun** language is still an active and vital link to the rich cultural heritage of the **Kingdom of Juda** (**Guda**) and the historical legacy of **Hogbonou**.

Conclusion: The Sacred Language of the Ancestors

The **Gun** language—also known as **Ogun Gbé** or **Goun**—is a sacred, ancient language originating from the **Nago** people, also referred to as **Anago** or **Nagot**.

The **Gun** language is not merely a language—it is a divine force that connects us to our ancestors, the **Orishas**, and the spiritual realm. It carries the wisdom of the **Egungun's** and invokes the divine power of **Ogun** and **Oya**. It is through the **Gun** language that we can tap into the eternal forces of creation, transformation, and resilience. It is a reminder that our ancestral roots are alive, and through them, we can find guidance, strength, and connection to the divine.

The language of **Ogun Gbé** is more than just a collection of words; it is a living force that vibrates with the essence of creation. It holds the codes of life and death, of war and peace, of creation and destruction. It is a language of transformation, carrying the energy of **Ogun** — the Orisha who shapes reality with his hands.

Through **Ogun Gbé**, we are reminded of our connection to the earth, to our ancestors, and to the divine forces that govern the universe. It is a language that speaks directly to the soul.

Ogun's Eternal Influence

Ogun, the God of Iron and War, is not simply a deity of battle, but a divine force that governs the physical, spiritual, and material worlds. Through his Oriki, we call upon his power of creation, transformation, and protection. He is the one who shapes reality with his hands, the force that guides the warrior in battle, and the protector of the orphan and lonely. His energy is ever-present in all aspects of life—through the metal we use, the roads we walk, and the challenges we face.

The Oriki of Ogun reminds us that no matter the trials we endure, Ogun's power is always with us—guiding, protecting, and transforming. His divine presence transcends time and space, making Ogun a true symbol of resilience, strength, and divine power.

Praise to Ogun, the Divine Protector and Warrior

Iba se Egun

I pay homage to the Spirit of the Ancestors

Egúngún kiki egúngún,

Praise to the mediums of the Ancestors,

Egún ikú ranran fe awo ku opipi.

Ancestors who have preserved the mystery of featherless flight.

O da so bo fun lewo. Egún ikú bata bango egún de.

You create the words of reverence and power. The drums of the Ancestors announce the arrival of the Ancestors.

Bi aba f'atori na le egun a sede.

On the strong mat you spread your power the Ancestors are here.

Ashê

Ogun, the Master of Iron and War

Ògún lakaye, *Ògún primordial, famous in the world, The indispensable one, known everywhere.*
Onija ole, *The strongest fighter.*
Adigirigiri rebi ija, *The clever one in battle.*
Egbe leyin omo kan, *He favors the lonely children.*
Egbe leyin omo adaloro, *He favors the orphan.*
Onile kangun kangun ona Orun, *The owner of many shaped houses in heaven.*
Mo ni Ògún Onire oko mi, *I call Ògún Onire, my beloved!*
Mo ni meje lÒgún mi, *I have seven Ògún, my own divine ones.*
Ọsin mole, *Next to God, the first primordial Orisha to enter Earth.*
Olomi ni ile feje we, *He who has water at home, but bathes with blood.*
Ogun ni jo ti ma lana lati ode, *The spirit of iron dances outside to clear the way.*

Ogun's Divine Attributes

Ogun, famous across the world, is a god of iron and war who stands as a divine protector of all who labor. His power is vast and enduring:

- **Ogun alada méjì**, *Ogun with two swords*—Ogun, the possessor of two swords; with one he prepares the farm, and with the other he clears the road..
- **Aṣọ ina l'o mu bora,** He was clothed in fire.
- **Ogun onile owo, ọlọna ọla** – Ogun, the owner of the house of money, the owner of the house of riches.
- **Oriṣa t'o ni t'ogun ko to nkan** – Whichever divinity regards ogun as of no consequence.
- **Ẹ ma b'ogun fi ija sere** – Do not joke about war with Ogun

- **Ofi okan sanko**, *He who has one heart for all tasks*, emphasizing Ogun's single-minded purpose in his divine role.
- **Ofi okan yena**, *One heart that transforms the world*, reflecting Ogun's ability to change the world through his will and strength.
- **Ọjo ogun nti ori oke bo**, *When Ogun comes, the spirit of the mountain moves*, showing that Ogun's power is unstoppable and affects all aspects of nature.
- **Aso ina lo mu bora**, *The flames of fire burn with Ogun's power*, a reflection of his connection to both destruction and renewal.
- **Ẹwu eje lowo**, *The one whose power flows through the blood*, demonstrating his deep connection to the life force.
- **Ogun onile owo**, *Ogun, who possesses wealth and land*, reinforcing Ogun's role as a provider and creator of prosperity.
- **Ọlo na ola**, *The one who holds the future*, showing Ogun as the master of time and fate.
- **Ogun onile Kongun kongun Ọrun**, The owner of many-shaped houses in the heavens, symbolizing his vast and eternal reach.

Role in Creation, Protection, and Transformation

Ogun is not just a god of war, but a force of creation, transformation, and protection. He clears obstacles, protects his people, and transforms the world through his work with iron and metal. His strength is shown in the many ways he shapes the world and guides his people. Here are some further praises:

- **Ogun apon leyin iju**, *Ogun clears the path through obstacles*, representing his power to overcome any challenge in his way.
- **Egbe lehin omo kan**, *He supports the lonely and the orphaned*, always giving strength to those in need.
- **Ogun meje logun mi**, *Ogun is seven in my heart*, highlighting his deep and eternal presence in our lives.
- **Ogun alara ni n gb'aja**, *Ogun the one who leads the warriors to victory*.
- **Ogun onire a gb'agbo**, *Ogun, the provider who cares for his people*.
- **Ogun ikole a gb'agbin**, *Ogun, the builder who sustains and prospers his community*.
- **Ogun ila a gb'esun isu**, *Ogun, who strikes with power to clear the way*—demonstrating his ability to remove barriers and create new paths.
- **Ogun akirin a gb'awo agbo**, *Ogun, the protector of his warriors in battle*, always ensuring their strength and success.

The Sacred Power of Ogun

Ogun's sacred power is not limited to war and strength. He is deeply tied to the forces of life and death, creation and destruction. His divine energy flows through the world, shaping everything in its path. He embodies the duality of existence—the destruction needed for rebirth and the creation of new life from old. He teaches resilience, strength, and transformation:

- **Ogun elemono eran ahun ni je**, *Ogun who eats the flesh of the boar and the hunter's meal*, emphasizing his deep connection to life and nature.
- **Ogun makinde ti dogun leyin odi**, *Ogun, the one who dances in the valley of death*, showing his mastery over life's cycles.
- **Bi o ba gba tapa a gb'aboki**, *To walk with Ogun is to walk with strength*, invoking his power to protect and guide.
- **A gba ukuuku a gba kemberi**, *Ogun receives the paths and the friends that walk them*.
- **Nje nibo lati gbe pade ogun?**, *Where does one meet Ogun?*
- **A pade ogun nibi ija**, *We meet Ogun in battle*.
- **A pade re nibi ita**, *We meet him on the road of life*.
- **A pade re nibi agbara eje ti nsan**, *We meet him in the power of blood that flows*, signifying the connection between Ogun's power and the vitality of life.
- **Agbara eje ti ndeni lorun**, *The blood of Ogun gives life to the soul*.
- **Bi omi ago**, *Like the flowing water, Ogun cleanses and renews*.
- **Bomode ba ndale, ki o mase da Ogun**, *Even when the child falls, Ogun is near, do not forget Ogun's power*.
- **Oro Ogun leewo**, *The words of Ogun are words of power*.
- **Ara Ogun kan go go go!**, *The strength of Ogun flows through me, go, go, go!*

Note: *Translation can never fully convey the depth of the original words, as Nago (or Yoruba) holds meanings often inaccessible in translation*.

Polo Orisha